

THE NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2010 (H.R. 5580)

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today upon the introduction of the National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act of 2010 which will ensure that any national monument designation is done on an informed basis and is accomplished through a transparent process fully involving Congress.

Pursuant to the "Property Clause", Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2, of the United States Constitution, Congress has the expressed power to "make needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory and other Property belonging to the United States." Through the Antiquities Act of 1906 and other acts, Congress has delegated considerable land management authority to the President. For example, the Antiquities Act, which was enacted in response to thefts from and the destruction of archeological sites, allows the President to proclaim national monuments on Federal lands that "contain historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic and scientific interest."

President Theodore Roosevelt first used the authority to create Devil's Tower in Wyoming. Today, there are 71 monuments covering approximately 136 million acres. While the Act has been used appropriately in some instances, it also has been abused.

For example, President Clinton, asserting that Congress had not acted quickly enough, used his authority 22 times to proclaim 19 new monuments and to expand three others; with one exception, the monuments were designated in his last year of office. They also totaled 5.9 million acres. Moreover, in the instance of the Giant Sequoia National Monument, they devastated the timber industry in Tulare County, California, and left an enduring legacy of double-digit unemployment and diminished communities.

As a life-long resident of Tulare County, I saw, and in fact still see, the devastation caused by that stroke of the President's pen. I well understand the anger and frustration that many of my constituents felt when, with no meaningful opportunity to provide input on this momentous decision, their lives and communities were changed forever.

Congress must not allow such abuses of the Antiquities Act to be repeated. Rather, if the Antiquities Act is going to remain law, it must be improved, particularly in the revelation that the current Administration might use the Act to designate monuments totaling as many as 13 million acres.

The National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act of 2010 would provide the necessary improvements. It would also provide much-needed transparency to what is currently an opaque process.

It is important to point out that the bill preserve the right of the President to act quickly to protect national treasures that are under threat, but it ensures his or her actions are confirmed by Congress. Specifically, Congress would have two years to affirm the President's decision to protect the national treasure in per-

petuity. This will restore the balance between executive decisions and public input.

The bill would also require the President to provide notice and the actual language of the proposed designation to Congress, Governors, local governments, and tribes within the boundaries of the proposed monument. Additionally, it would require the Administration to provide notice of public hearings and allow opportunity for public comments. The President would then have to report to Congress on how the designation would impact local tax revenues, national energy security, land interests, rights, and uses.

These reforms would ensure the Antiquities Act is used appropriately and in accordance with its original intent. Any monument decisions would be made with all the pertinent information available, with full public participation, and Congressional approval rather than in the dark of the night and at the behest of radical environmentalists.

HONORING THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDERED ROUND TABLE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table, GLBTRT, of the American Library Association, the first professional gay organization in the United States, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

Throughout its 40 years, the GLBTRT has worked to ensure information and access needs for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered individuals. In this welcoming and inclusive forum, they have worked to improve the lives of librarians, archivists, other information specialists, and library users who are part of the GLBT community.

The GLBTRT acts on many different levels to advocate for their community. Through their work in revising classification schemes, subject heading lists, and indices, the GLBTRT removes derogatory and hurtful terms. They also strive to eliminate job discrimination based on sexual orientation. Additionally, they promote education awareness of all library patrons by ensuring unrestricted access to information by or about the GLBT community. They also support other minority groups advocating for better representation and equal opportunity in the Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the anniversary of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table and congratulating them on their successes and further efforts to reach equality in the library and information communities.

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS, AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of a practical, common sense bill: The Efficiency, Effectiveness and Performance Improvement Act.

This legislation will cut government waste by forcing every Federal agency to create a rigorous performance evaluation plan—and live by it.

Under this legislation agency heads will conduct evaluations of every program within their purview and report on goals to increase performance objectives.

The OMB Director will report to Congress on agency goals and suggested methods to improve program performance.

By forcing our agencies to create and adhere to strategic planning we will increase government efficiency and effectiveness.

As our deficit continues to grow, we must constantly strive to find ways—small and large—to get rid of government waste and inefficiency.

This bill does just that. I thank my colleague from Texas for introducing it, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

RECOGNIZING MASTER SERGEANT VANDIVER K. HOOD ON THE OCCASION OF RECEIVING A THIRD BRONZE STAR MEDAL

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate MSgt Vandiver "Van" Hood of the 4th Civil Engineer Squadron, 4th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina, on receiving his third Bronze Star. Master Sergeant Hood's actions while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom saved the lives of his fellow servicemen and provided invaluable intelligence toward ending the ongoing global war on terror.

Master Sergeant Van Hood was born in Winston Salem, North Carolina on November 19, 1973. He was an extremely active young man. He participated competitively in soccer and swimming, leading him to varsity letters all 4 years of high school. Master Sergeant Hood graduated from Page High School in Greensboro in 1992 and joined the United States Air Force less than 2 years later on April 26, 1994.

Master Sergeant Hood was first stationed at Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico. While there, he excelled, and won the First Sergeants Association's Diamond Sharp Award, was named the Master Blaster of the Year, and in 1997, was selected as Cannon Air Force Base's Airman of the Year. Master Sergeant Hood served at Cannon Air Force Base for over 4 years before being assigned to Ramstein Air Base in Germany.